

Would You Rather?

5 Thoughtful Dilemmas for Ages 11–13

Values & Critical Thinking Edition

QUESTION 1 OF 5

Medium ★★

Would you rather always tell the complete truth — even when it hurts someone's feelings — or always tell kind lies to protect the people you care about?

OPTION A

OPTION B

Always tell the complete truth, no matter what

Always tell kind lies to protect others

THINK ABOUT IT

Honesty builds trust, but brutal honesty can damage relationships. Is there ever a version of the truth that's both honest AND kind? Think about a time someone's honesty helped you — even if it stung.

GOING DEEPER

What if choosing Option A meant your best friend found out something painful about themselves right before a big performance? Would you still tell them?

Would you rather be famous and admired by millions of strangers — but feel deeply lonely — or be totally unknown but surrounded by a few people who truly love and understand you?

OPTION A

Famous worldwide, but deeply lonely

OPTION B

Unknown, but deeply loved by a few

THINK ABOUT IT

This question gets at what we actually need versus what we think we want. Does public recognition fill the same need as genuine connection? Many famous people have spoken about loneliness despite adoration.

GOING DEEPER

What if being famous was the only way you could make a real difference in the world — helping thousands of people — but you'd still feel lonely inside? Does that change your answer?

Would you rather be really good at something you don't enjoy — and people expect a lot from you because of it — or be just okay at something you genuinely love?

OPTION A

Excellent at something you dislike

OPTION B

Average at something you love

THINK ABOUT IT

This touches on identity, pressure, and happiness. Is talent wasted if it doesn't bring joy? Does loving something matter more if you'll never be the best at it?

GOING DEEPER

What if the thing you're excellent at (but hate) could pay for the life and freedom to pursue the thing you love — would you spend years doing it anyway?

QUESTION 4 OF 5

Tricky ★★★

Would you rather have the power to help one person in a life-changing, dramatic way — or help 100 people in a small but real way?

OPTION A

Change one life completely and forever

OPTION B

Improve 100 lives in a small but meaningful way

THINK ABOUT IT

This is a real ethical debate — philosophers call it thinking about "depth vs. breadth" of impact. Neither is obviously right. What does it say about your values if you pick one over the other?

GOING DEEPER

What if the one person you could help completely was a stranger, but the 100 small helps would go to people you know? Does who receives help change your answer?

QUESTION 5 OF 5

Tricky ★★★

Would you rather live a comfortable, easy life with no real struggles — but never feel truly proud of anything — or live a challenging life full of setbacks, but occasionally achieve something that makes you genuinely proud?

OPTION A

Easy life, no real pride or accomplishment

OPTION B

Hard life, but moments of real achievement

THINK ABOUT IT

This gets at what makes life feel meaningful. Psychologists have found that people often report their hardest experiences as their most important. But is struggle necessary for meaning — or just a story we tell ourselves?

GOING DEEPER

What if the 'easy life' still had love, laughter, and deep friendships — just no big personal achievements? Would that change things?